



Docket No. 288748.0003

PATENT

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Piene et al.

Serial No.: 09/831,553

Art Unit: 1623

Filed: November 5, 2001

Examiner: Devesh Khare

For: PROCESS FOR PREPARING ORAL  
CALCIUM COMPOSITIONS

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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DEC 05 2003  
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**RESPONSE**

This paper is filed in response to the Office Action dated May 28, 2003. A petition with fee for a three-month extension of time accompanies this response. This response is considered timely filed on Tuesday, November 25, 2003.

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Claim 1 (original) A process for the preparation of an orally administrable calcium composition, said process comprising the steps of:

(i) obtaining a physiologically tolerable particulate calcium compound having a mean particle size in the range of 3 to 40  $\mu\text{m}$ , having a crystalline structure and having a surface area of 0.1 to 1.2  $\text{m}^2/\text{g}$ ;

(ii) mixing said calcium compound with a water-soluble diluent and an aqueous solution of water soluble binder in a fluid bed granulation apparatus and drying the resulting mixture to produce a first granulate;